

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 00334 181447Z  
ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00  
INR-05 INRE-00 PM-03 MC-02 PRS-01 L-01 SP-02 /042 W  
-----181450Z 080125 /43

O P 181300Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3852  
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
CSAF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY  
HQ AFSC ANDREWS AFB MD PRIORITY  
HQ ASD WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB, OH PRIORITY  
F-16 SPO WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB OH PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 0334

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: POL/ MILI  
SUBJ: EUROPEAN PARTICIPATING GROUP F-16 MEETING IN BRUSSELS,  
MONDAY, 18 JANUARY.

REF: COPENHAGEN 0251 DTG 131700Z JAN 77.

SUMMARY: THE SPECIAL MEETING OF EUROPEAN PARTICIPANTS IN  
THE F-16 PROGRAM, CALLED BY DANISH MINISTER OF DEFENSE  
MOELLER, MONDAY, JAN 18, IN BRUSSELS, WAS CONDUCTED IN  
A SPIRIT OF HARMONY AND COOPERATION. THE FOUR MINISTERS,  
INTENDING TO PRESERVE THE SPIRIT OF CONSORTIUM COOPERA-  
TION, WILL SEEK WITHIN THE CONSORTIUM ANSWERS TO THEIR  
MUTUAL QUESTIONS. THEY WILL SEND A CONGENIAL LETTER TO  
INCOMING SECRETARY OF DEFENSE BROWN EXPRESSING THEIR  
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INTEREST IN AND HOPE FOR THE CONTINUED SUCCESSSS OF THE  
F-16 PROGRAM AND ASK HIS CONSIDERATION FOR THEIR  
COMMON CONCERNS ABOUT THE PGROM. END SUMMARY.

1. DANISH DEFENSE OFFICIALS ADVISED US MONDAY NIGHT  
THAT THE DEFENSE MINISTERS' MEETING HELD IN BRUSSELS  
MONDAY TO DISCUSS F-16 MATTERS WAS CONDUCTED IN

HARMONY, WITH RESOLVE TO SEEK WITHIN THE CONSORTIUM SOLUTIONS TO THEIR MUTUAL CONCERNS. (REFTEL) THEY FURTHER ADVISED US THAT A DRAFT LETTER WAS DRAWN UP BY THE FOUR MINISTERS WHICH DISCUSSES THESE CONCERNS. THE LETTER, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE SIGNED BY ORLA MOELLER SHORTLY, WILL BE DISPATCHED TO INCOMING SECRETARY OF DEFENSE BROWN. THE DANES EMPHASIZED THAT THE MEETING WAS NOT CONDUCTED IN AN ANTI-U.S. ATMOSPHERE NOR WAS THERE AN ATTEMPT BY ANY OF THE FOUR MINISTERS TO CREATE DISCORD WITHIN THE CONSORTIUM. THEY EMPHASIZED THAT THERE WAS UNANIMOUS RESOLVE TO SOLVE ANY PROBLEMS WITHIN THE PRESENT STRUCTURE OF THE CONSORTIUM AND THAT ANY PRESS SPECULATION THAT THE F-16 PROGRAM WAS IN JEOPARDY OR IN DANGER OF TERMINATION BY ANY PARTNER WAS TOTALLY INCORRECT.

2. THE DANES INDICATED THAT THE LETTER BEING DRAFTED FOR SECRETARY DESIGNATE BROWN, WHICH WILL BE MOST CONGENIAL IN TONE, WILL ADDRESS THE SPIRIT OF PARTNERSHIP WITHIN THE CONSORTIUM, CONTRACT PADDING, AND OFFSET COMMITMENTS. OF THESE THREE POINTS, CONTRACT PADDING AND OFFSET COMMITMENTS ARE OF THE MOST INTEREST TO THE MINISTERS. THE DANES REEMPHASIZED THAT THE LETTER WILL NOT BE HOSTILE IN NATURE BUT COUCHED IN AN INQUIRING THEME. THEY POINTED OUT THAT THERE MAY BE ADEQUATE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS WHICH WILL SATISFY EVERYONE, BUT THEY HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN SATISFACTORY ANSWERS TO THEM YET.

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3. THE DANES FURTHER STRESSED THAT, BECAUSE THE MEETING WAS INITIATED BY THE DANISH MINISTER OF DEFENSE, THIS SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED TO MEAN THAT THE DANES ARE THOSE MOST DISCONTENTED WITH THE F16 PROGRAM. THEY CONVEYED THE IMPRESSION THAT MOELLER, ACTING AS CHAIRMAN OF THE EUROGROUP, CONVENED THE MEETING AS A NORMAL COURSE TO DISCUSS SUBJECTS OF MUTUAL INTEREST TO THE FOUR COUNTRIES IN LIGHT OF THE PENDING REQUIREMENT TO SIGN THE F-16 LETTER OF OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE. (COMMENT: THIS ATTITUDE IS A SLIGHT CHANGE FROM THE PRE-MINISTERIAL MEETING AT WHICH THE DANES CONVEYED THEIR UNHAPPINESS WITH PROGRESS IN THE F-16 PROGRAM. THE DEFENSE MINISTERS APPARENTLY ADOPTED A MORE REASONED APPROACH AT THEIR MEETING WHICH IS NOW BEING PASSED ON TO US.).

4. COMMENT: OUR ANALYSIS IS THAT THIS EXERCISE, INITIATED BY THE DANES, HAS TWO MOTIVES. IT REFLECTS A REAL FRUSTRATION ON THE PART OF THE DANISH F-16

WORKING GROUP IN PENETRATING THE COMPARATIVELY LARGE  
U.S. DOD DECISION PROCESS, AND IT SERVES THE CURRENT  
POLITICAL INTERESTS OF MINISTER OF DEFENSE MOELLER.  
THE SPECIFIC POINTS DISCUSSED BY THE MINISTERS ARE  
THOSE THAT WE HAVE HEARD AT LOWER LEVELS THROUGHOUT  
THE CURRENT F-16 NEGOTIATIONS AND ARE REAL TO THEM.  
FOR THESE ISSUES TO BE RAISED NOW TO THE MINISTERIAL  
LEVEL, UNDER ORLA MOELLER'S LEADERSHIP, ALSO SERVES  
HIS IMMEDIATE POLITICAL REQUIREMENT TO STRENGTHEN HIS  
POSITION IN THE CURRENT DANISH DEFENSE AGREEMENT  
NEGOTIATIONS. REGARDLESS OF THE MOTIVES, THE QUES-  
TIONS RAISED IN THIS WIDELY-PUBLICIZED MEETING ARE  
WORTHY OF OUR CONCERN.  
DEAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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